

Message Text

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PASS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, XV
SUBJECT: CHILE: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

REF: A) STATE 52416; B) SANTIAGO 11927; C) LONDON 3802

1. EMBASSY SANTIAGO RATHER SURPRISED BY REFERENCE A REGARDING NON-ATTENDANCE OF NSF REPRESENTATIVES. THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY BY WRITTEN NOTE ON JANUARY 11, 1977, THAT DR. R. RUTFORD OF NSF WOULD ATTEND AND JAMES E. HEG MIGHT ATTEND SYMPOSIUM ON ANRARCIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. AS OF THE MOMENT, 80 PERSONS HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO ATTEND THE SYMPOSIUM, 22 OF WHOM ARE NON-CHILEAN. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING ARE SUCH WELL-KNOWN AUTHORITIES AS TORE GJELSVIK, PRESIDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH, AND NANSEN FOUNDATION DIRECTOR FINN SOLLIE OF NORWAY, JAPANESE POLAR INSTITUTE DIRECTOR TAKESI NAGATA AND BRITAIN'S SCOTT POLAR
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INSTITUTE DIRECTOR BRIAN ROBERS. WE WONDER WHETHER, WITH THESE PERSONS PRESENT, MEETING WILL BE AS INCONSEQUENTIAL AS UK'S HEAP SUGGESTS.

3. WE HAVE ALREADY HAD DIFFICULTY EXPLAINING TO CONCERNED CHILEANS (WHO INCLUDE SOME GOOD FRIENDS OF THE U.S.) APPARENT LACK OF US INTEREST IN SYMPOSIUM. WE WERE ABLE TO MOLLIFY THEM SOMEWHAT WITH

EXPLANATION THAT ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO NSF OFFICIALS WOULD ATTEND. THE NEW DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BUT RUB INTO THE CHILEANS AN AWARENESS THAT WHEREAS WE RELY ON THEIR COOPERATION REGARDING SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS IN THEIR AUSTRAL TERRITORIES (DRAKE PASSAGE/MAGELLAN STRAITS), WE ARE UNWILLING TO DO THEM THE COURTESY OF PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE IN WHICH THEIR OWN INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE IS INVOLVED. MOREOVER, NON-PARTICIPATION AT PUNTA ARENAS WILL NOT GIVE US MUCH LEVERAGE, SHOULD WE NEED IT, ON PROBLEM OF POLISH CONSULTATIVE STATUS.

4. FURTHER, FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF VIEW, WE HAVE INTERESTS IN THE ANTACTIC AS WELL AS IN THE OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE. FINALLY, THE PRESENCE OF THESE HIGH LEVEL INDIVIDUALS, AND SANTIAGO CHIEFS OF MISSION, SUGGEST POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS WITH WHICH WE SHOULD NOT BE OUT OF TOUCH.

5. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE A FULLER EXPLANATION WHICH WE CAN GIVE THE CHILEANS AS TO OUR APPARENT BOYCOTT OF THIS CONFERENCE FROM SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT. PREFERABLY, OF COURSE, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE PARTICIPATION ON AN INFORMAL BASIS BY A U.S. ANTACRTIC EXPERT OF STATURE COMPARABLE TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AS WELL AS EMBASSY'S SCIENCE OFFICER.
POPPER

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